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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,187	07/08/2003	Toru Nishimura	0905-0290P	7097
2292	7590	08/10/2007	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				SAFAIPOUR, HOUSHANG
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2625		
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/10/2007		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/614,187	NISHIMURA, TORU
	Examiner Houshang Safaipour	Art Unit 2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishimaru et al. (US 7,130,091) and further in view of Yoo (US 6,421,146).

Regarding claim 1, Ishimaru discloses an apparatus for correcting a solid-state electronic image sensing device, comprising:

a solid-state electronic image sensing device (fig. 4, CCD), which is created by dividing an image sensing area into a plurality of areas, for outputting image data representing the image of a subject by sensing the image of the subject (col. 5, lines 44-47);

As shown in fig. 4, the four analog outputs from the individual sensors (R,G,B and B/W), are each converted to a digital form (A/D 103) and individually inputted to shading correction unit (104). Ishimaru does not explicitly disclose correction-value memory for storing correction values in association with respective ones of the plurality of areas of said solid-state electronic image sensing device. Yoo discloses an apparatus and method for shading correction in image scanning system and introduces a shading memory (110) for storing shading data corresponding to the digital signal converted from analog signal of color elements respectively at the corresponding addresses of each color element and each pixel (col. 5, lines 20-39). Yoo further discloses an image-data correction unit (corrector 130) for correcting image data, which is

obtained based upon respective ones of the plurality of areas from among the image data that is output from said solid-state electronic image sensing device, using corresponding correction values from among the correction values stored in said correction-value memory (col. 5, lines 40-47). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use such storing means and the corrector unit as disclosed by Yoo in Image Reading Apparatus of Ishimaru for performing shading correction on receipt of the output from A/D converter.

Regarding claim 2, Yoo discloses a plurality of correction circuits corresponding to the plurality of said correction-value memories; and a control unit for applying image data obtained based upon respective ones of the plurality of areas from among the image data output from said solid-state electronic image sensing device to corresponding correction circuits from among the plurality of correction circuits, and controlling said correction circuits so as to correct the image data using corresponding correction values from among the correction values that have been stored in said plurality of correction-value memories (col. 5, lines 19-47).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

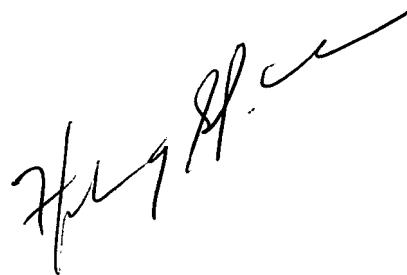
4. ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Houshang Safaipour whose telephone number is (571)272-7412. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 6:00am to 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Houshang Safaipour
Patent Examiner
August 1, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Houshang Safaipour", is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.